



News Release

Communications New Brunswick

N.B. Human Rights Commission

New grounds of prohibited discrimination (05/01/31)

NB 117

Jan. 31, 2005

FREDERICTON (CNB) - The following statement was issued today by Alanna Palmer, chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission:

"The Human Rights Commission reminds New Brunswickers that as of Jan. 31, 2005, there are two new grounds of prohibited discrimination in our province:

(1) political belief or activity, and

(2) social condition, defined as inclusion in "a socially identifiable group that suffers from social or economic disadvantage on the basis of his or her source of income, occupation or level of education."

"In February 2004, the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission made several recommendations to the government to amend the *Human Rights Act*. The addition of these two new grounds was part of those recommendations. The commission looks forward to further amendments to the act in consideration of its other recommendations.

"The Human Rights Commission is pleased that the recognition of these grounds was unanimously passed in the legislature, and notes that New Brunswick is the third jurisdiction in Canada to recognize social condition as a prohibited ground of discrimination.

Two guidelines that explain the implementation of these two new grounds of prohibited discrimination are available on the commission website at:

<http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/e/Guideline-Political-Belief-Activity-Discrimination-New-Brunswick.pdf>

<http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/e/Guideline-Social-Condition-Discrimination-New-Brunswick.pdf>

"In order to file a complaint, it is necessary that the alleged discrimination under either of these two grounds occurred on or after Jan. 31, 2005."

05/01/31

MEDIA CONTACT: Alanna Palmer, chair, New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, 506-453-2301 or 1-888-471-2233, website: <http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/e/index.htm>.

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